

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-14 (Canceled):

15. (Currently amended): A method of collecting substances comprising positioning liquid containing substances in the vicinity of ~~an~~ a first electrode having a vacant space therein and a second electrode, said vacant space substantially surrounded by said first electrode such that the periphery of the vacant space is not defined in part or at all by the second electrode.

subjecting said liquid containing substances to influence by a negative dielectrophoretic force generated by application of voltage to said electrode, and collecting said substances subjected to influence by a negative dielectrophoretic force in the vicinity of said vacant space of said first electrode.

16. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 15 wherein said electrode is on a substrate and a lid is provided adjacent to said electrode in such that a gap is formed between said electrode and said lid, and said liquid containing substances subjected to influence by said negative dielectrophoretic force is provided in said gap to allow the substances to contact with the electrode.

17. (Currently amended): The method according to claim 16 wherein said

substance subjected to influence by said negative dielectrophoretic force is a complex of a substance binding to a substance to be measured, a substance subjected to influence by a negative dielectrophoretic force, and the substance to be measured which binds to said ["] substance binding to a substance to be measured.

18. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 17 wherein said substance subjected to influence by a negative dielectrophoretic force is a granular substance subjected to influence by a negative dielectrophoretic force.

19. (Currently amended): A method of detecting substances comprising positioning liquid containing substances in the vicinity of an electrode having a vacant space therein and a second electrode, said vacant space substantially surrounded by said first electrode such that the periphery of the vacant space is not defined in part or at all by the second electrode,

subjecting said liquid containing substances to influence by a negative dielectrophoretic force generated by application of voltage to said electrode,

collecting said substances subjected to influence by a negative dielectrophoretic force in the vicinity of said vacant space of said first electrode, and optically detecting said substance.

20. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 19 wherein said

substances subjected to influence by said negative dielectrophoretic force is a complex of a substance binding to a substance to be measured, a substance subjected to influence by a negative dielectrophoretic force and the substance to be measured which binds to said substance binding to a substance to be measured.

21. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 20 wherein said substance subjected to influence by a negative dielectrophoretic force is a granular substance subjected to influence by a negative dielectrophoretic force.

22. (Withdrawn): A dielectrophoretic apparatus characterized in that in a dielectrophoretic apparatus provided with an electrode on a substrate, a construction for realizing an increase of non-uniform electric field region is formed among electrodes.

23. (Withdrawn): A dielectrophoretic apparatus characterized in that in a dielectrophoretic apparatus provided with an electrode on a substrate, the places among said electrodes are made in lower level than the electrode level.

24. (Withdrawn): The dielectrophoretic apparatus according to claim 23 wherein said electrode is held by a convex construction on said substrate to make the places among said electrodes in lower level than said electrode level.

25. (Withdrawn): A method for manufacturing a dielectrophoretic apparatus characterized in that a substrate is excavated by physical or chemical means to make the places among said electrodes in lower level than said electrode level.

26. (Withdrawn): The method for manufacturing a dielectrophoretic apparatus according to claim 25 wherein said chemical means is an etching using an etching liquid for the substrate of said dielectrophoretic apparatus.

27. (Canceled):

28. (Canceled):

29. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 15, wherein the liquid containing substances is positioned above the vacant space of the electrode.

30. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 15, wherein the liquid containing substances is positioned by causing the liquid to flow about the electrode.

31. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 30, wherein the liquid containing substances is positioned by causing the liquid to flow above the electrode.

32. (Currently amended): A method according to claim ~~29~~ 30, wherein the liquid containing substances is positioned by causing the liquid to flow below the electrode.

33. (Currently amended): A method according to claim 15, wherein the liquid containing substances is positioned ~~above~~ below the vacant space of the electrode.

34. (Canceled):

35. (Currently amended): A method according to claim ~~30~~ 15, wherein the liquid containing substances are collected ~~is positioned by causing the liquid to flow~~ above the ~~electrode~~ position of the space.

36. (Currently amended): A method according to claim ~~29~~ 15, wherein the liquid containing substances are collected ~~is positioned by causing the liquid to flow~~ below the ~~electrode~~ position of the space.

37. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 19, wherein the liquid containing substances is positioned above the vacant space of the electrode.

38. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 19, wherein the liquid containing substances is positioned by causing the liquid to flow about the electrode.

39. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 38, wherein the liquid containing substances is positioned by causing the liquid to flow above the electrode.

40. (Currently amended): A method according to claim ~~37~~ 38, wherein the liquid containing substances is positioned by causing the liquid to flow below the electrode.

41. (Currently amended): A method according to claim 19, wherein the liquid containing substances is positioned ~~above~~ below the vacant space of the electrode.

42. (Canceled):

43. (Currently amended): A method according to claim ~~38~~ 19, wherein the liquid containing substances are collected ~~is positioned by causing the liquid to flow~~ above the ~~electrode position of the space~~.

44. (Currently amended): A method according to claim ~~37~~ 19, wherein the liquid containing substances are collected ~~is positioned by causing the liquid to flow~~ below the ~~electrode position of the space~~.